

(b) Has not the proposed canal been found on investigation to be a very beneficial concern inasmuch as it would be useful to the people for traffic and would considerably enhance the productive capacity of extensive paddy fields?

(c) What is the total amount already spent on the concern?

(d) How many furlongs of the proposed canal still remain to be opened?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state why the work is being delayed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme is considered beneficial.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 337 was incurred in conducting the investigation.

(d) No attempt was made at actually opening the canal.

(e) Even if the engineering and physical difficulties could be surmounted, the anticipated cost of the scheme was considered out of all proportion to the benefit expected, in the light of the investigation made in the past, and the scheme was therefore finally abandoned in 1919.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): May I know what are the physical difficulties to the scheme?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Member's attention is invited to G. O. 8434 (a), dated 15th February 1919, published in the *Gazette*. That gives some idea of the reasons.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): May I know whether the Special Navigation Officer has made a report about this scheme?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The report has not been received so far.

Early improvement of the road from the Adur-Kayankulam Road to the Mavelikara-Pantalām Road.

236. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikuralai*): (a) Are the Government aware that the people of Chunakkara, Bharanikkavu and the neighbouring *pakuthies* in the Mavelikara taluk are put to great loss and difficulties in the transport of manure, agricultural produce, etc., owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the road passing through the *pakuthies* from the Adur-Kayankulam road northwards to the Mavelikara-Pantalām road?

(b) In consideration of the fact that the land required for improving the road was acquired by the Government several years ago and that the road requires only some slight improvements and proper maintenance for making it safe and convenient for cart traffic, will the Government be pleased to take up and finish the work as early as convenient?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Government are not aware. The road is reported to be fit for cart and even motor traffic.

(b) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to take it from me that the road—

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to a point of order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Menon, you are supplying information and not questioning for eliciting information.

Metalling the road from Valiaperumpuzha to Mannar.

237. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): (a) Are the Government aware that great loss and trouble are caused to the public because a portion of the principal road from Kayankulam, viz., the portion from Valiaperumpuzha to Mannar, is still ungravelled and is unfit for cart traffic?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to have this portion of the road gravelled and rendered fit for cart traffic as early as convenient?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Government are not aware.

(b) There is not much traffic and so the gravelling of this road is not an urgent necessity.

Metalling of the Kayankulam-Adur Road.

238. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): (a) Are the Government aware that portions of the Kayankulam-Adur road, for about 2 miles beyond Kayankulam, are very dangerous for wheeled traffic at present?

(b) In consideration of the fact that the road is the chief road leading eastwards from the shores of the lakes in Central Travancore, and is being constantly used for heavy wheeled traffic in the transport of agricultural produce, manure, etc., will the Government be pleased to have the road metalled and maintained in a satisfactory condition?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) The portion of the road is understood to be unsatisfactory.

(b) An estimate has already been sanctioned for remetalling the 1st four miles of the road, and work in the first and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 2nd mile has been completed. Metal collection for remetalling the remaining portion is proceeding and the actual work of metalling will be done soon after the monsoon sets in.

Abolition of P. W. D. Sub-Divisions and redistribution of jurisdiction of Section Officers.

239. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): (a) Cannot the Sub-division offices in the Public Works Department be abolished in the interests of economy and more undivided responsibility for proper work?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether a redistribution of the jurisdiction of Section Officers is not desirable in the interests of economy and a proper distribution of work?